



Fact Sheet:



Governor's Mentoring Partnership

Purpose

The Governor's Mentoring Partnership (GMP), formerly the California Mentoring Initiative under Governor Wilson, was created to provide continuing support for California's youth through mentoring. Statistics show that children with mentors demonstrate solid improvements, especially in the areas of academic performance and are less likely to be involved with gangs, violence, teen pregnancy, alcohol and drug use. Mentoring is a logical, cost-effective prevention strategy that provides youth with positive, caring role models who help them succeed and become productive, contributing members of our society.

About the GMP

The GMP works in partnership with over 700 California community, faith and school based mentoring programs such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Clubs and regional mentoring coalitions throughout the state. Their aim is to provide increased public awareness of the need for and support of mentoring, and identify and implement effective incentives and strategies to expand mentoring in the public and private sector. The goal of GMP is to encourage strong collaborations regionally to involve whole communities in mentoring efforts to assist our youth.

Highlights

- January is National Mentor Month and offers high visibility at the state and national level. During the month, GMP staffs various publicity events and distributes posters, bookmarks and literature to mentor programs statewide. Governor Schwarzenegger proclaimed January 2005, as "California Mentoring Month."
- In the spring of 2005, the GMP developed a mentor toolkit to provide mentor programs with practical strategies to market their programs, increase public awareness, recruit mentors and form partnerships with other organizations. It is available free of charge.
- In the fall of 2005 the GMP will once again partner with the California Service Corps in support of the Governor and First Lady's Conference on Women and Families" -Volunteer Village.
- The GMP website (www.mentoring.ca.gov) is an important resource for mentor programs and the public who are looking for various mentor materials and information.

GMP's Objectives

- Advise the Administration and the private sector on policy and strategies to increase the number of mentors in California.
- Assist California business and corporate entities to incorporate mentoring into their organizations, support local mentoring programs, including after school mentoring efforts, familiarize them with the benefits of mentoring for youth, and promote mentoring as a workforce development, training and retention tool.
- Oversee the development, delivery and evaluation of products and services to mentor coalitions, programs, business, and other interested organizations
- Provide leadership, policy guidance and direction regarding mentoring policies, practices, procedures and strategies to national, state and local government, community and special interest groups related to mentoring.
- Provide policy guidance and direction regarding mentoring to state departments and their directors.
- Promote and assist in the development of partnerships with public, non-profit and private-sector organizations, business, schools, and community based mentoring programs.
- Providing information and support to mentors.

- Conduct monthly meetings and workshops with mentor recruiters in state departments to disseminate information and strategies about mentoring.
- Identify state recruiter needs and develop a training plan for monthly meetings, quarterly and annual training, and other forms of information useful in developing a knowledge base and skills necessary for departmental support of mentoring in California.

Mentor Leave Program

The State of California continues to support and encourages state employees to become mentors. Working with labor unions, state employees are eligible for 40 hours of mentor leave time per year through collective bargaining agreements. For more information, see the Website at <http://www.mentoring.ca.gov>.

Mentoring Facts

Studies are providing data reflecting the powerful impact of a caring adult in a young person's life. A recent study of Big Brothers/Big Sisters programs (Source: "Making A Difference: An Impact Study of Big Brothers/Big Sisters," Public Private Ventures, 1995) research shows a 46 percent reduction in the initiation of drug use and a 27 percent reduction in the initiation of alcohol use for young people being mentored. Additional research shows that grades in school improved for 59 percent of students

as a result of help from their mentors. Fifty-three percent credited mentors with improving their ability to avoid drugs, and 52 percent of students improved their ability to stay out of trouble as a result of their mentoring experience (Source: "Mentoring: Lessons Learned," The Commonwealth Fund, Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., 1994).

The GMP is located at 1700 K Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814. To locate a local mentoring program on the web, go to

<http://www.mentoring.ca.gov>.